

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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O 251600Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8709

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 2951

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECRP, CI, US

SUBJECT: CHILE CASP FY 75-76

REF: STATE 109075

1. IN CASP SUBMISSION CT DID NOT RPT NOT POSIT, EITHER AS GOAL ACHIEVABLE IN IMMEDIATE TIMEFRAME BEYOND FY 75-76 OR AS OBJECTIVE ACHIEVABLE IN THOSE FY'S, "EARLY" CHILEAN RETURN TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. THAT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC. RATHER, CT HAD IN MIND KEEPING OPEN OPTION TO EVENTUAL RETURN OF SUCH GOVT WHEN POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION PERMITS.

2. MOREOVER, AS INDICATED IN BOTH AMBASSADOR'S OVERVIEW AND STATEMENT OF ISSUE NO. 1, IT IS MADE CLEAR THAT PRIMARY US INTEREST LIES IN SUPPORTING GOC, AND THAT JUDICIOUS ENCOURAGEMENT TO GOC TO MOVE TOWARD RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE POLITICAL STABILITY IN CHILE OVER THE LONGER TERM. IN THIS SENSE, EMBASSY'S CASP POSITION SERVES US INTEREST.

3. MORE SPECIFICALLY, IN ADDITION TO OUR GENERAL

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PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRATIC REGIMES -- WHICH IS OF

CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE IN ITSELF -- THE PRESERVATION
OF THIS OPTION SERVES US INTERESTS IN AT LEAST
FOLLOWING WAYS:

A. IT SERVES US PRIORITY INTERESTS IN POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND US ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY BY CONTRIBUTING TO PREVENTION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF UNGOVERNABLE DISSATISFACTION AND THE
RECIPROCAL RISE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESSION, IN THIS
COUNTRY WITH LONG HISTORY OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT
AND WITH HIGHLY POLITICIZED SOCIETY.

B. IT ENHANCES THE LONGER-TERM PROSPECTS FOR
PROMOTION OF ALL US INTERESTS. IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT
A DICTATORSHIP WELL-DISPOSED TOWARDS THE US, LIKE THE
PRESENT GOC, SERVES US INTERESTS BETTER THAN MANY
CHILEAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS MIGHT. HOWEVER, EVEN IN
THE RELATIVELY SHORT TERM, A DICTATORSHIP IS CAPABLE
OF MORE RADICAL POLICY SHIFTS THAN A DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENT. THIS IS ESPECIALLY PERTINENT IN CHILE
WHERE LATENT NATIONALIST ATTITUDES ARE STRONG AND
EASILY AROUSED. MOREOVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF DEMOCRATIC
PRACTICES, ONE CAN ENVISAGE DICTATORSHIPS THAT TILT
AGAINST THE US RATHER THAN TOWARD IT AS AT PRESENT.
OVER THE LONGER TERM, WE BELIEVE A REPRESENTATIVE
SYSTEM OFFERS BEST PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS
WHICH WILL UNDERSTAND US POLICIES AND PERCEIVE A
CONGRUENCE OF US AND CHILEAN INTERESTS.

C. IT SERVES US INTERESTS BROADER THAN THOSE IN
CHILE. AS INTERNATIONAL FUROR SINCE SEPTEMBER 11
REVEALS, CHILE HAS EXTRAORDINARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SIGNIFICANCE. WHETHER CHILE MOVES TOWARD RESTORATION
DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHILEAN TRADITION
WILL HAVE SOME IMPACT ON US, GIVEN DEGREE US IDENTIFICATION
WITH CHILE INEVITABLE IN OUR EFFORTS ASSIST CHILEAN
RECOVERY PROGRAMS. COMMUNISTS AND OTHER LEFTISTS ALL
OVER THE WORLD HAVE MADE CHILE A TEST CASE OF WORLD-WIDE
IDEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE, ON THE ARGUMENT THAT A
"DEMOCRATIC" SOCIALIST REGIME WAS FORCIBLY EJECTED
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FROM POWER BY A REACTIONARY MILITARY GROUP THROUGH A
COUP DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
AS LONG AS THE JUNTA MAINTAINS ITS AUTHORITARIAN
CHARACTER, IT -- AND BY ASSOCIATION THE USG--
WILL BE OPEN TO SUCH STRICTURES, UNJUSTIFIABLE THOUGH
THEY ARE.

4. THIS OPTION TACITLY ACCEPTED BY GOVERNING JUNTA,

WHICH FROM BEGINNING HAS DEPICTED ITSELF AS EXCEPTIONAL
MECHANISM DEvised TO RETURN CHILE TO NORMAL TRADITIONS
OF GOVT ONCE BODY POLITIC HAS BEEN CLEANSED AND
CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN MODIFIED.

5. OBJECTIVIES AND COURSES OF ACTION UNDER GOAL
QUOTED REFTEL WERE CONSTRUCTED BY CT IN TERMS POSSIBILITY
THEIR IMPLEMENTATION DURING CASP PERIOD.
POPPER

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